



June
2022

Zion Lutheran Church
Zion News & Notes

Zion News & Notes is published each month by the church office. It includes news of upcoming events, thank you notes, a calendar, archives, photos and many other items of interest. Our newsletters are also available on our website: www.zionLutheranNy.org

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Zion's News & Notes

A few words from Pastor Rick

Thank you for the privilege of serving Zion the past few months and for your prayers for my father and my family since his recent fall. I will continue to see you in June, leading worship and preaching on June 5th and 19th and for a wedding on June 25th, but otherwise the pastoral baton is passed on to Pastor Bill Preuss effective June 1st. I am thankful he is able to help Zion.

At times like this it is fitting to remember the progress and good that by God's grace and the Holy Spirit we were able to do together.

We began the Abide process with Pastor Lori Kochanski, which will help Zion discover and implement three or four specific, achievable next steps and goals. The next conversation is June 12th, and, if needed, there may be one more after that.

Our Congregation Council began conversations with the Congregation Council of Trinity, Herkimer, which may lead to calling together and sharing a pastor. Plans were made for worship and activities together over the summer. Conversations will continue.

The Council authorized the annual financial audit for 2021, which had not been done in three years. The audit includes all the church's funds, including Endowment and Knobloch, and the Financial Secretary's records. I am thankful for the two members conducting the audit. When finished, they will report their findings back to Council, and an audit form with signatures of pastor and congregation leadership will be sent to the Upstate New York Synod. The Congregation Constitution requires three people for an audit committee with rotating 3-year terms. Council members and those with financial oversight may not serve. The Council will need to restore a full committee. Regular financial audits are vital to the well-being of the congregation.

The annual Congregation Report to the ELCA was made for 2021, the first one since the report for 2018. It reports 135 active participants, but over 1350 baptized members and over 900 confirmed members. A future task is to examine and trim those numbers to a more faithful representation. Like an annual physical at the doctor's office, these last two reports are important for assessing a congregation's health.

As we entered a new stage in the pandemic, we began restoring more music, Scripture, and prayer to our Sunday liturgy. Some committees began meeting again in person. Live-streaming worship and some meetings on Zoom will continue, but nothing will replace meeting in person, being in community together, and the fullness of in-person communication.

Council explored conducting the annual financial pledge campaign earlier in the fall, and the congregation approving the congregation budget in a special meeting before the fiscal year begins on January 1st (not at the February annual meeting), permitting the Council to pay staff and expenses in the new fiscal year.



A few words from Pastor Rick continued..

We transitioned two positions on the paid staff, bookkeeper and technologist, and are currently working on filling the position of music director/organist. That leaves unfilled the vital position of settled pastor (as opposed to intentional interim or transitional), fundamental to a congregation's sustainability and ministry.

During our time together, we seemed to accept that without extraordinary measures Zion can no longer afford a full-time settled pastor on its own, or live beyond its means. At the same time, God's work in a congregation is not solely the work of the pastor and paid staff. God's mission is the work of the whole congregation, and God's mission continues even now.

The Congregation Council must continue to lead. It is charged by the constitution with general oversight of the congregation's life and activities and leadership of the congregation's mission. It is the board of trustees for all the congregation's financial matters and property with fiduciary responsibility for all the congregation's finances and property, and under New York State law, as well. Yet the work of a congregation is not solely the responsibility of the Congregation Council either.

The people must continue to do their parts. Functioning and active congregation committees are necessary and vital for the life and well-being of a congregation. When a pastor, paid staff, or Congregation Council members are over-functioning and becoming weary and discouraged, members of the congregation are probably not doing their share.

And, perhaps, congregation and personal expectations need to be right-sized. Zion cannot reasonably expect to have the same level of activity it did in the past, when it was much larger. Perhaps committees can be dissolved or consolidated with activities reduced. Perhaps past activities no longer are reasonable or apply. Perhaps members with specific passions and interests for certain outreaches and activities no longer participate. Perhaps old avenues for potential ministry have closed and new areas have opened. Honest assessments and willingness to adapt will be helpful.

Sharing a pastor will change the dynamics, but not ease the responsibility of Congregation Council and members for the congregation's life and activities.

God's Spirit has held Zion together in caring for one another and its community for many years, in both good times and bad, in easy times and hard. Keep the faith. Your love for one another and for Christ are apparent. God's love abides.

God's blessings!

Pastor Rick Klafehn

JUNE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Team: Please continue to review the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. Zion always needs your help to lead the services!

Sunday, July 10th: Worship Service will begin at 11 AM due to the Boilermaker Road Race.

Boilermaker: July 10th is Boilermaker Sunday! Volunteers (*at least two people, more would be better*) are needed to receive donations of food or cash from 6 AM - 9 AM in Zion's parking lot. It would be helpful if one volunteer has a key but, if not, someone will open the door. **The Hospitality Drinks/Food Tent and the use of Zion's bathrooms will not be available this year due to Covid concerns.** Please call or email Zion's office if you're able to help with the parking lot 315-732-4110 or ssilva@zionluth.com.

Technology Committee: We are absolutely desperate for members to join the technology committee. This is currently one of the most important committees and we are in need of some support. The reality is that the services on Zoom and YouTube are here to stay post-pandemic, and we find ourselves falling short in the area of technology. If you are even slightly knowledgeable in the area of hardware and/or software, we could really use your help! Zion is getting new equipment for sharing the services online which is really exciting, but it can't be done without the help and support that we will need. If interested please contact Sara S. or Mark Thompson.

Name Tags: We are in search of a name badge/lanyard holder(s) for the congregation's name tags. If you happen to come across anything that you think would be a good fit to store these, please send links, photos, and ideas to Sara at office@zionluth.com. Thank you!

Graduation & moving up ceremonies: Please send any brag worthy graduation details that you would like for us to post in our upcoming newsletters for the student in your life. No recognition is too small! You can send your requests to Sara at office@zionluth.com.

Women of Faith: Summer Bible Study Begins Monday, June 27th, on Zoom at 7:00pm. Join us over the summer on the last Monday of each month [June 27th, July 25th, and August 29th] for an hour Bible Study. This three-session study, *Crafted in Christ, A Summer of Rest and Renewal*, uses the concept of quilting to explore rest, renewal, and Christian community. We'll discuss Old and New Testament readings as we consider the patterns we follow and how the pieces of our lives and communities are bound together in Christ. There is no sewing involved and you don't have to be crafty to come to Bible study. Watch the bulletin for the Zoom link. June 27th - A summer of rest and renewal. This session will focus on choosing patterns and re-assessing the shape of our lives. We find life-giving patterns in worship, Sabbath, and service. Hard copies of the study are available in the church narthex. The video supplement to the study is available at [Katie Hines-Shah leads Gather's June 2022 Bible study - Gather Magazine](#). You may want to watch this before we gather. July 25th - Quilt Cutting and Piecing. August 29th - *Ties that Bind*. **SAVE THE DATE** - On Sunday, July 31st, at noon, Women of Faith from our three area congregations will gather at Our Saviour Lutheran Church for our next in-person get-together. Our Saviour will host us and provide beverage and dessert. Bring a bag lunch. Trinity's women will be planning the program with more details to come next month.

A Few Words of Introduction

Beginning June 1st we find ourselves on a journey together. I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. I am very grateful to Pastor Rick Klafehn as during his time with Zion his wisdom, experience, and faith have assisted you on this journey.

You may remember me when I was the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Herkimer or from the years I served at LutheranCare. In 2002, I was called by the Metropolitan New York Synod to serve at Eger Lutheran Home on Staten Island. Retirement at the end of 2007 saw a move to our home state of Connecticut, where we remained until June 2019.

June 11th will be my 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and I think “How can this be possible?”

Marilyn and I now live in the City of Oneida, surrounded by our adult children and grandchildren. I don’t move as rapidly as I once did since an unusual autoimmune disease has impacted my ambulation ability. You will likely notice that I often walk with a cane and wear ankle-foot orthotics (braces). However, while slowing me down, I am very thankful for medical care and family support that have been instrumental in dramatic health improvement over the past two years.

While “retired” in Connecticut, I was privileged to work with a total of seven Lutheran faith communities during times of transition. It is this experience that I bring with me to Zion.

I have committed to provide an average of 10 hours a week to Zion, and to preside at worship on two Sundays a month. June will be different, as the Worship schedule is already arranged, and we have a long-planned vacation in Vermont which will take us away for almost two weeks, and of course there is Synod Assembly at the beginning of the month.

I expect to be in the office at Zion at least one day a week and look forward to visiting with members in the office; making an appointment is preferred. If you desire me to visit you at your home, please let me know. As regulations allow, I will visit in healthcare settings when requested.

This journey will be one that evolves over time, reflecting Zion’s needs and priorities.

Please contact Sara at Zion’s office if you wish to arrange a time to visit with me. You can also contact me by email at preussbill7@gmail.com, or on my cell phone at 860-335-2183. I always seek to respond to emails or phone calls as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to travel with you on this journey.

God’s Peace and Blessing Always,
Pastor Bill Preuss



June Birthdays

Don Gregory	3	Alan Swierczek	19
John Blackburn	4	Robert Kulawy	24
Vivian Deckman	6	Jayden Silva	24
Danyelle Stevens	7	Jeanne Youngkrans	25
Carl Schmitt	8	Linda Lambe	26
Alex McAllister	11	Sue Pardee	27
Phil Renno	13	Lois McAllister	27
Betty LaFave	18	Barb Wilson	29
Christopher Pulliam	18	Connor Russell	27
Jim Smith	18		

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Jim Daly	Building Fund	Wendy Stevens
Rose LaGase	World Hunger	Fran & Connie LaGase
Jim Daly	Endowment Fund	Jan Kowalczyk
In Honor of:	To:	Given by:
Katie Marscher	World Hunger	Loretta Berie
Ben & Cheryl Edmiston	Operating Expenses	Dawn Strasser
Bob & Bonnie Loomis	World Hunger	Pam Burns
Our 60th Wedding Anniversary	World Hunger "for the cow"	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Laurel McCurdy	World Hunger	Patsy Glista
Don & Wanda Gregory	World Hunger	Laurel McCurdy

June Worship Team Schedule

Date:	Worship Assistant	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
June 5		Pr. Rick	Jan Corn	Deb Murdock
June 12	Wendy Stevens	Deacon Patsy Glista	Deb Murdock	Doreen Nicholls & Jeanne Gymburch
June 19		Pr. Rick	Linda Bennett	
June 26		Pr. Bill	Barb Wilson	Jan Corn

A Note from the Council President

Isaiah 65:17 reminds us that God is making all things new. God is presently at work at Zion making many things new. For myself change can be difficult, and I sometimes respond with new isn't better. However, when I look at change through the lens of God's perfect love and focus on His guidance, the fear of new is replaced with hope and peace.

Through the Abide process, Pastor Lori Kochanski is helping us move forward with new ways and plans of action as we address leadership expectations, sustainability, and vitality. Our next Abide meetings will take place on Sunday, May 22nd, and Sunday, June 12th, at noon via Zoom. We appreciate the insights Pastor Lori has helped us gain through this process.

God allowed us to participate in a second most successful Joint Conversation with Trinity/Herkimer on Monday, May 16th, via Zoom. This meeting resulted in new joint plans and new ministry opportunities. During the meeting, we broke out into small discussion groups to discuss the following: Can we share worship? What ministries can we share? Pastor Gail asked us to identify the most important and viable ideas. These ideas follow. We agreed to provide hybrid worship at Zion on July 3rd, and Trinity agreed to provide hybrid worship on September 4th.

We agreed to have an outdoor picnic for both congregations in July. Congregants from both congregations will bring dishes to share. This event will take place at a park located between both congregations. Children from both congregations will be invited, and games will be planned for **them**. We need a lead person from Zion to work with Trinity/Herkimer to help plan this event. If you're willing to help, please contact Sara Silva in the church office or Linda Bennett at spunk1238@gmail.com.

Zion and Trinity/Herkimer may cook together on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.

Trinity has invited us to their Faith Alive (intergenerational Sunday School). This will most likely start in September and will be held once a month. We are invited to attend either in person or via Zoom. Phyllis, the head of Faith Alive, would like a contact person from Zion. If you are willing to serve as this person, please contact Sara in the church office or Linda Bennett at spunk1238@gmail.com.

Exploring the possibility of helping refugees was a top priority for both congregations. This may result in both congregations adopting a refugee family together. Mark Thompson is the person to contact if you are willing to explore and commit to helping refugees.

The final new thing involves both Pastor Rick Klafehn and Pastor Bill Preuss. I'd like to thank Pastor Rick for his guidance, organization, and leadership these past several months. I have greatly appreciated his encouragement and send prayers of strength and peace as he attends to his parents' needs. I would also like to welcome Pastor Bill Preuss to Zion as our new transitional pastor. We have already been blessed by his presence.

In Christ's Service,

Linda Bennett, Council President

		April 2022 Treasurer's Report		
	Apr 2022	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 15,017.02	\$ 71,621.27	\$ 49,996.81	\$ 21,624.46
Other Income	\$ 2,016.38	\$ 5,754.85	\$ 6,814.06	\$ (1,059.21)
Total Income	\$ 17,033.40	\$ 77,376.12	\$ 56,810.87	\$ 20,565.25
Total Expense	\$ 12,591.77	\$ 55,067.89	\$ 57,495.80	\$ (2,427.91)
Net Income	\$ 4,441.63	\$ 22,308.23	\$ (684.93)	\$ 22,993.16

Thank You Notes & Congratulations



Congratulations to Megan Free. Megan is graduating from Whitesboro High School on June 18th!! We are thrilled to have Megan on board as technologist here at Zion and we are wishing her all the best.

Dear Zion friends,
Thank you to everyone who sent me a birthday card and I especially appreciated the comments in the cards.
Sincerely,
Millie Angevine



Zion members, thank you so much for sending me this lovely (and delicious) Bundt Cake arrangement for Administrative Professional's Day! Since this wonderful reminder of Admin. Prof. Day came my way, I was sure to run out to get a nice mug for the front desk administrator at my son's school. I would have felt bad if I didn't recognize her on that day, she is a great help. I wanted to enclose a thank you card that Jayden received thanks to Zion!

Many thanks from my family, too. I chose the chocolate Bundt cake, Isabel called the confetti one pretty much instantly, Jayden had the red velvet, and Ben had the carrot cake.

Love,
Sara



EXTRA, EXTRA!

Zion is excited to announce that a new Marketing & Communications team has been meeting to plan and implement new strategies to boost our presence in the community, as well as on the web. Current group members are Laurel McCurdy, Pr. Rick, and Sara Silva. Sara Silva is the coordinator for the group, and any interested members who would like to join are asked to reach out to Sara or Laurel. Current discussions and work load include a new digital outdoor sign for the church, and an improved YouTube channel.

We understand that this could be time consuming, and if you cannot participate in meetings but would like to volunteer when opportunity arises, that is definitely an option and we'd love to have your help & support!

Let us know if you're interested in coming on board at any capacity!! Meetings take place during office hours, but Zoom may be an option for you.

Isle of Klezbos
ALL-FEMALE POWERHOUSE KLEZMER BAND

These women will make you shake your tushies! - Village Voice

JEWTiCA
A JEWISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

June 12, 2022 | 12PM - 8PM
Jewish Community Center of Utica
2310 Oneida St, Utica, NY

FREE! All Are Welcome!

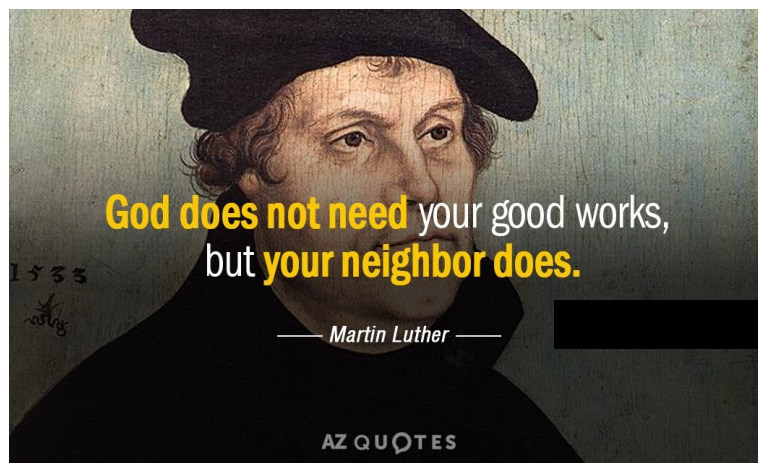
Jeffrey Yoskowitz
The Gemitria

Broadway Babes • Live Food Demonstrations • Delicious Jewish Food
Utica Zoo Mobile • Utica Public Library • Jewish Jeopardy
Ask the Rabbi Booth • And Much More!

Vignettes from Zion's history



Wetzel Family Plot, Forest Hill Cemetery, Mothers' Day 2022.





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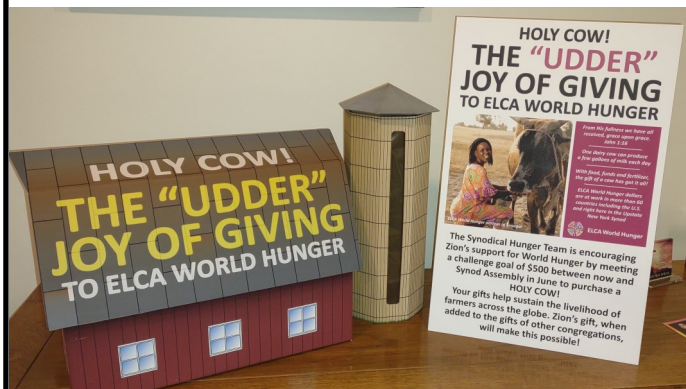
Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully
discern God's call to help people
to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.*



Our spring World Hunger emphasis is about to wrap up! All funds that we have gathered will be taken in one check to Synod Assembly, where they will be presented at the World Hunger table and joined together with the offerings from other Upstate Synod congregations. Throughout assembly, announcements are made as the total grows.

The Synod World Hunger Team (Carole Grove is our representative on that team) has worked enthusiastically with the theme of "Holy Cow! The Udder Joy of Giving!" It is important to know, however, that Lutheran World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief and Disaster Response work closely together to get all funds to any place in the world where there is the greatest need.



Thank you for your generous support of our ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response partners as they work every day to reach the people and places of greatest need in our troubled world. Our display will be traveling to assembly to appear on the World Hunger table.

Many thanks to John Blackburn for creating such a wonderful and creative display!!